

ANOMALY RESEARCH BULLETIN

ISSUE #4

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IN THIS ISSUE: Report On Vestigia's Spook
Light Experiment--The Pitts Controversy--
The Writings Of Arthur C. Clarke Examined
--Along With Data, News & Views Of The
Most Remarkable Type!

THE PHANTOM PANTHERS RETURN

UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA!
BIZARRE GOINGS ON!
ODDITIES!
UNDENIABLE ENIGMAS!



ANOMALY RESEARCH BULLETIN

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NOTICE: NEW RATES IN EFFECT. Yearly subscriptions are now \$3 for six issues. Sorry about the price hike, but we can't afford to publish and mail a publication this size for a mere 25¢ per issue. Anyways, look at the brighter side: when you compare this particular publication to other Fortean publications you come to one shocking conclusion: ARB is really giving you an awful lot of information for your money. Back issues available: #3 is 50¢ while #2 is selling for 25¢. Issue #1 is currently out of print. Single copy price 50¢. Make all checks payable to David Fideler.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

The highlight of this issue is Lou Wiedemann's article describing a most interesting experiment conducted by VESTIGIA, a new dynamic Fortean group based on the East Coast. As data from this and future experiments is analyzed scientific breakthroughs of the highest order will no doubt take place. I'm not speaking lightly, either. Read the article describing VESTIGIA's brush with a "spook light" and see for yourself.

The Bill Pitts controversy rages on in the pages of this publication! In this issue we hear from Bill Pitts, Lou Farish, and Curt Sutherly. All three raise interesting points.

We recently received a strange missive from a certain Steve Miller. Enclosed with his letter was a little piece of satirical writing, which is now, at last, finding its way into print. Going against our best judgement, we present, "I was Captured by the Infraterrestrials". (We'll probably regret ever printing it later on. If you don't like it, write Miller, not us!)

On a more serious note, Pat Bontempo's article which appears in this issue takes a look at Arthur C. Clarke's writings as they relate to the extraterrestrial hypothesis of UFO origin.

Let me remind the readers that we really are in need of high quality material to use for publication (such as the various items that appear in this issue). We greatly appreciate anything that you can send.

-----David Fideler

 CURRENT RESEARCH

Joan Jeffers, a graduate student in anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, is conducting independent research of the evidence for the existant of "Bigfoot" in the eastern half of the U.S. She would like reports from investigators and witnesses. Contact Joan at 3408 Parkview Ave. #19, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

RESEARCHING MICHIGAN FORTEANA.....by David Fideler

Some Fortean researchers claim that UFOs, poltergeists, "monsters," and other strange-goings-on are related to each other and occur in the same well-defined areas year after year. John Keel, who has done some impressive work in this area, calls such locations "windows" or "window areas." Keel states: "Periodically, all hell breaks loose in all these places simultaneously, and then we have a flap, or wave, of UFO sightings, apparitions, poltergeists, sudden inexplicable disappearances of animals and human beings, mysterious fires, and even a form of mass madness (1)."

Keel also states that such "windows" often center around areas of magnetic deviation, or to be precise, magnetic anomalies. Interestingly enough, it has been shown that UFOs do indeed cluster around magnetic anomalies (2).

In an effort to study Keel's window hypothesis (and hopefully, prove or disprove it) I have begun to compile a "complete" catalog of Michigan Forteana. Michigan has produced a huge number of UFO reports over the years, along with quite a few creature reports (not to mention animal and ice falls, disappearances, and other incidents of equal Fortean merit).

Let me briefly describe the catalog

All reports are written up in a simple narrative on one side of an index card, being written in a manner very similar to Jacques Vallee's Lagonia catalog (3). These cards, which list all pertinent data, are arranged by date in a "master file." For each "master card" typed up, a "secondary card" is produced. These secondary cards contain information on the report's location and date. They are arranged by location (alphabetically; effectively cross referencing reports by location). After the two said cards are prepared and filed the report is plotted on a detailed map of Michigan with color-coded tacks, which represent the type of report.

Thusfar, over 190 Michigan reports have been cataloged with many more to go. Further more, we will be receiving a UFOCAT print out of 1,000 Michigan UFO sightings in the very near future. When "all" reports are cataloged we will prepare charts and maps showing the distribution of Fortean activity in relation to population density and magnetic anomalies. After this is completed further lines of research will be considered depending on early results.

Several interesting patterns are apparently now coming to light as a result of this research. A short article in the next issue of ARB will contain some rather important data on Michigan "monster" (how I hate that term) sightings and their non-random distribution.

If any readers of ARE are interested in doing similar work in their area or have data on Michigan UFO/Fortean activity I would greatly appreciate it if they would contact me. As always, I'm interested in exchanging data with researchers the world over.

Results of this research will appear in future issues of ARE and other Fortean publications.

REFERENCES USED:

1. Keel, John. Our Haunted Planet (1971), page 92-93.
2. See the February issue of Data-Net Report for the results of one study.
3. Passport to Lagonia.

Mr. X writes: "INFO was trying and others have suggested a guidebook to Forteana recently, but I discussed it briefly with Ivan T. Sanderson about a year before he died. My only difficulty has been in locating some tangible Forteana in terribly dull places like Nebraska and Montana, for I want at least one "thing" in each state and province.....It was just Forteana, I'd have a longer list, but thusfar I have stuck to tangibles that can be observed and depend little upon the luck of being at the right place at the right time.....The lacking states are: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, and Wisconsin.....What I like is that it will enable anyone to visit a site nearby or at least in the same state to see something the nature of which is yet unexplained or has puzzled scientists for a long time. Remote places are not the only place Forteana exists, it exists in our very backyards and remains only to be recognized and reacted to...."

This sounds like a very worthwhile project. Readers who can assist Mr. X may reach him at Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5C8 Canada.

If you are working on a special project and need certain types of data write to the editor and your request will eventually make its way into print.

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REPORT ON VESTIGIA'S EXPERIMENTS CONCERNING A NEW JERSEY SPOOKLIGHT

C. Louis Wiedemann

"We have the light in sight. Can you see it?" came the crackling communication over the radio in the command post. This excited message was unexpected, for this was really only a trial run of the experiment. At that moment all hell broke loose in the mobile command post. "Our instruments are going wild," reported team leaders Jack Mazzuchelli and Bill Wagner; and then: "Van to post 2; Post 1 reports they have the light in sight. Report the appearance from your position at once."

(Continued next page.)

The oscilloscope, which had been registering a steady pattern of 60-cycle "noise" for hours, suddenly "straight lined" as if a filter had been placed in the circuit. The needle on the geiger counter's meter began to fluctuate. And then all radio communication was suddenly blacked out.

Spook lights or ghost lights are historical phenomena which have been around for decades, in fact for centuries. Many are seen near railroad tracks; others appear over lonely roads and fields. Perhaps the most famous are the Brown Mountain lights in North Carolina which have been seen, off and on, for some 200 years. Seeming to float about the mountain and valley, they have never been positively explained, although Charles Fort wrote in his book Lo! that a U.S. Government Geologist was sent to investigate and, after a very cursory look, he reported that the lights were nothing more than the lights of houses, automobiles, locomotives and "bush fires." Quite recently the Brown Mountain area was again visited by several "experts" (whatever that word means) who drew similar conclusions.

In a personal communication with this author, James Moseley reported that in 1969 he and a fellow ufologist Timothy Green Beckley visited Brown Mountain, at which time they drew a similar conclusion. "Most people don't know a city light from their rear end," said Moseley. "If there are any real lights, as there may well be, they spend most of their time down in the nearby valley, out of view from the road; and if anyone wants to go down there after them, lots of luck. It is uninhabited, and practically jungle."

At about the same time Moseley was busily avoiding genuine field research, Jerome Clark was having his pants scared off in North Dakota by the sight of a spook light which was overlaid by a silhouette of a huge creature. Whatever Clark and a companion observed, the phenomenon (and subsequent events which might have been related) deterred that ufologist from making similar sojourns for several years.

The spook light in New Jersey has not previously received much serious attention, although it seems to have been around for at least twenty to forty years. Appearing over a stretch of railroad track in a remote section of Morris County, it is said to sway from side to side in the manner of a swinging light or lantern. When approached it vanishes. A mythology has grown up about the light, and the locals call it the Hooker Man. According to the legend, a railroad worker who had previously lost a hand in a train accident, and had had a prosthetic hook placed on the stump, was later killed in a second accident. Ever since, or so goes the story, this "hooker man" has wandered the tracks, swinging a lantern and searching for his hand. Interestingly, Moseley reports that a similar spook light in Iaco, South Carolina is surrounded by a very similar legend, and also appears over railroad tracks. Another well known light, the Crossett Light of the town of Crossett Arkansas, also appears over rail road tracks and has a nearly identical story attached to it.

In 1976 a new Fortean organization named Vestigia decided to study Jew Jersey's mysterious light. The study was to be done in two seperate phases: psychic and electronic. In October 1976 a nationally known woman psychic was brought to the site and asked to walk along the track and report any unusual impressions. At one location she reported the distinct impression of "something terrible which occurred here in the 1940s."

Subsequently two other persons with highly developed psychic senses provided independent confirmation. Both sensed that a horrifying incident, apparently a gruesome murder, had occured at the spot many years ago. One of these women became hysterical at the site, explaining later that her mind seemed to have been temporarily possessed by the mind of a young girl who had been destroyed by a towering, metallic-bodied creature with a horrible face.

The psychic impressions of these people gave a fairly consistent indication that one particular area along the tracks may be a focal point for the phenomenon. Accordingly, when the second phase of Vestigia's experiment was set up, some of the sensing devices were aimed at or positioned near that spot. The light, when it did appear, naturally chose an entirely different locus!

On November 20, 1976, Vestigia's two spooklight vans were positioned near the tracks, and connected in a T-configuration to form the command post. One of the vans contained table and benches for observers, with an electric heater and coffee pot. The second van housed more than \$30,000 worth of electronic equiptment which was attached by cables to sensing devices along the railroad tracks. Conrail had provided permission to conduct the study; no trains were scecheduled for that night. The local police department had been informed, and nearby residents were advised of the experiment. The executive board's spooklight advisor, Jim McGrath, was on hand to help supervise. Team leaders Wagner (an electronics engineer) and Mazzuchelli took charge of the instrumentation, including two-way radio communication to observers at three posts spaced along one mile of track. In all, some 16 persons were directly involved.

Four thousand feet of ground antenna made of silver plated fine copper wire was laid between the rails, and attached to an amplifier and oscilloscope which would detect variations in electrical frequency and amplitude. Other cables were attached directly to the rails, to act as a capacitance test; anything metallic between or over the rails would register on a readout device in the van. Thermometers were positioned on a staff at two heights above the ground, and their readings were displayed on an electrical digital-readout in the van. The geiger counter's sensor was positioned at the presumed "hot spot," and it, too, was wired in to a dial in the command post. Other devices included a methane gas detector, a parabolic listening device, and a VASCAR radar unit.

At Post 2 (level with the command post) a group of observers on the tracks manned the radar as well as cameras which were loaded with infra-red sensitive film, and a motion-picture camera containing ultra-fast film. Post 1 and Post 3 observers, a half mile to the right and left respectively, were armed with cameras, binoculars and radio communicators.

No one expected the light to appear on the first night. The author (a member of Vestigia's administrative board) had said to Jack Mazzuchelli, "The light will know all about our equipment, and it will never appear!"

Jack replied humorously: "Of course the light will know. But what the light will not know is the fact that the real experiment consists of two guys hiding in the bushes with butterfly nets. After the vans drive away and the light decides it's safe to come out, we will catch it in a net and lock it up in a mayonnaise jar!"

By dark all hookups had been completed and tested. Radio communications were in good order, the coffee pot was in operation, and the experiment had begun in earnest. Hours passed. Team members were rotated in shifts to man the three posts along the tracks. Then at 10:21 P.M. two observers at Post 1 radioed their exciting message. At a distance of approximately 300 to 400 feet down the track from them (between Posts 1 and 2) a faint but definite yellowish-white light appeared to hover over the tracks. Initially stationary, in a few moments it appeared to be swaying from side to side in a pendulum-type motion. Estimates of the light's true size ranged from three to six inches in diameter. Post 2 observers, some 700 yards from Post 1, were alerted, but they were unable to discern the light despite the fact that the track is perfectly straight in this area. At this writing the infra-red-sensitive film is still being analyzed. The photographs were taken from Post 2, with the camera aimed down the tracks at the apparent darkness. When developed, a very definite circular "light" was found to have been captured on the film. Radar did not pick up anything moving; VASCAR radar will not indicate a stationary object.

For awhile the pattern on the oscilloscope "straight lined," and then resumed a pattern of 60-cycle noise, but superimposed onto this pattern was a frequency in the range of 40,000 cycles. Within minutes the geiger counter's needle swung to its highest position and hung there for about 10 seconds. This was repeated two more times. The geiger counter's sensing device was positioned about 600 yards from the apparent location of the light, and was aimed in the opposite direction.

The capacitance test readout showed the apparent presence of a conductor between or over the two rails. The sequence of indications given by the instruments tended to indicate that an energy field may have been traveling from Post 1, past Post 2 toward Post 3. This impression was so strong

that Wagner radioed to Post 3 (communications-were no longer blacked out): "Keep a sharp lookout for any unusual occurrences in your direction!" But the Post 2 and 3 observers saw no light. Whatever it was, it would seem that it was visible to the eye from only one side!

After two minutes the light faded out, and within 10 minutes all dials and readouts had dropped back to base level. No one except the people at Post 1 had seen the light. No ghosts with hooks for hands had ripped apart any equipment, and no new psychic experiences were reported.

At the time of this writing, analysis of the data continues. Already there are definite plans to perform the experiment again, the next time with certain additions and refinements to the equipment. No conclusions have been drawn, and in fact it would be incorrect to draw any firm conclusions at this early stage of study. It seems certain that "something" was there. Whatever (or whoever) it was will probably still be there when we return to the site. And if it decides to remain elusive the next time, we can always fall back on using the butterfly nets!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vestigia (the latin stem for the word investigate and which in itself means footprint) is a non-profit organization of volunteers, whose primary function is to investigate and/or research those areas of science and nature that are as yet, unexplained. There are two types of member ship: Full Member (over 18 years of age) and Associate Member (under 18 years of age). Membership fees are \$10.00/year and \$5.00/year respectively. Includes subscription to the Vestigia Newsletter. The next issue of the Vestigia Newsletter will contain reproductions of the spotlight photos, of which seven were taken. The pictures are FANTASTIC! The interesting thing is that Post 2 observers, who didn't see the light, were able to photograph it. Address all inquiries to: Vestigia, R.D. 2, Brookwood Road, Stanhope, New Jersey 07874.

There have recently been several internal changes within INFO, the International Fortean Organization. Richard Hall is now editor of the recommended INFO Journal. Effective immediately, INFO's new address is: 7317 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Maryland 20740. The old address remains valid and mail to that address will continue to reach INFO indefinitely.

NEW ADDRESS: Fortean Times, a highly recommended publication, has a new address: P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP, England. Rates: \$6.00 for one year (six issues). Please include 10% to cover banking exchange commission if payment is by check. For a mere \$2.00 they'll send you a fantastic color Fortean Times poster which will surely blow your mind.

If you'd like to have your publication or group mentioned drop a note to the editor.

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A letter from Bill Pitts

Dear David:

Your Number 3 issue of the Anomaly Research Bulletin was received in today's mail - and I sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy.

Any reply I may have to your "editorial consultant"'s article about mine in the MUFON publication, would probably go unheeded. In the first place, I have no quarrel with anyone about their thoughts on any subject. I believe they are entitled to their opinions - as I am to my own. His article reinforces mine.

A problem arises when readers do not have actual "referred-to" articles for comparison. Mr. Sutherly, apparently, did not understand my article - and even misquotes - and leaves the impression that I am of the opinion that UFO's are "extra-terrestrial," which I did not so state.

At any rate, I am honored that my article provoked the ire of anyone - to the extent that it created any thoughts at all - even critical. In fact, Mr. Sutherly's article points out several factors to which serious, honest, UFO Investigators should beware - unknown to Mr. Sutherly, of course.

Most persons who write with a vested interest are always looking for new, and exotic, material. As if there is not enough for the serious UFO Investigator, Mr. Sutherly needs spooks, creatures (sic). I feel that there could be something in each that does not necessarily bring them together. When Mr. Sutherly states that "After reading it (my article) I could have wept," it is an expression to be well-remembered.

It really makes no difference what any of us think about any of these subjects, as they may be more than we can fathom. So we can let Mr. Sutherly, and others, have their moments of weeping - without changing honest reporting, and evaluations, by those with credentials to recognize the differences. Basically, he is guilty of the very things of which he accuses me, and then some.

Thanks, again, for the sample copy - and good luck to you!

Very sincerely, Bill Pitts (500 N. Second St., Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901)

A CURT REPLY TO SUTHERLY'S SOLILOQUY

by Lucius Farish

I consider it regrettable that Curt Sutherly has taken up space in the #3 issue of ARB which could have been devoted to something more useful. However, since he has done so, I wish to make a few comments about some of the things he mentions.

It is obvious from Curt's assorted snide remarks that he does not care for MUFON, the extraterrestrial UFO theory, and Bill Pitts' beliefs. That, of course, is his right. I see no reason, however, for such remarks as those pertaining to the MUFON UFO Journal (formerly Skylook). If the Journal

is indeed "headed for ruin" there are no obvious indications of such a dire fate. It is behind schedule, but that will (hopefully) be corrected shortly. I assume Curt considers that the Journal is on the skids because it had published an article by Bill Pitts--an article with which Curt does not agree. Neither do I agree with some of the points raised by Bill Pitts, but I certainly have no objection to his ideas being published.

Does Curt know why Bill Pitts thinks the "true UFO" will prove to be a metallic object? Apparently not. If Curt had seen the UFOs which Bill Pitts has seen, perhaps he would not be so eager to dismiss the concept of physical, metallic vehicles of unknown origin. Yes, Pitts' beliefs, theories, acceptances--use whatever term you like--are based on personal sightings. Can Curt say the same for his own "beliefs"?

To me, it is just as illogical for Curt to dismiss the ET concept as it is for Bill Pitts to dismiss the psychic or parapsychical concept. If Curt's mind is indeed "set to the wide-angle position" which he considers will give us portions of "the truth," he is doing an excellent job of hiding that fact. I think it far more likely that when a closed mind of one persuasion meets a closed mind of another persuasion, little of substance is likely to emerge from such a meeting.

Curt refers to the "spaceship UFOlogists" and says he is glad he isn't one of them. Since I am not exclusively in the in the category he deplores, perhaps I shouldn't attempt to speak for them, but I just have this sneaky feeling that if any "hardcore ETists" have read Curt's offerings, they are also extremely glad he isn't one of them!

(END)

A reply:

It's interesting that Lou Farish thinks I wasted space in the number three issue of ARB, while commenting (attacking) Bill Pitts' article in the MUFON UFO Journal. However, he makes no comment over the fact that Pitts' original article was equally a waste of space.

The fact remains that Pitts wrote a tirade slamming researchers who don't believe all UFOs are "metallic structured" objects. In Pitts' reply this issue, he says that I leave the impression that he (Pitts) is "of the opinion that UFOs are 'extraterrestrial'", which Pitts says he "did not so state." True, Bill didn't say that UFOs are spaceships--not exactly. Well, if they aren't spaceships (since he believes they are metallic), then they must either be Earth-built or manufactured in another space-time continua and dispatched here. But for years the spaceship fans have been screaming the UFOs aren't space-time devices; they also don't like the Earth-origin theory--which brings us back to the ET hypothesis.

Lou Farish says that it's obvious that I have little regard for the extraterrestrial theory. True, but I don't discount it entirely, which I pointed out in last issue's article. To wit: "The spaceship UFOlogists, such as Pitts, have built themselves a nice, wonderfully secure refuge in their delusion that the final and ultimate 'truth' is located among the stars. Part, maybe, but certainly not all." Lou was so busy worrying about how "snide" I was being that he

apparently failed to take note of this statement. (Incidentally, sometimes one has to be snide to get a point across, otherwise it just doesn't sink in.)

As for "seeing" metallic UFOs, there is amply evidence available that the five basic senses of known living creatures can be deceived. Pitts himself is well aware of this, being something of an amateur stage magician. And don't worry folks: Curt Sutherly has seen his share of UFOs, though I generally don't go around blabbing about them (although perhaps it's time to change that). For instance, a then-skeptical friend and I watched a silver disk, very solid appearing, perform the famous fluttering leaf ballet; this when I was 16. It (the object) sure as hell looked like a solid vehicle, but who am I to say that such really was the case? This was a daytime sighting, incidentally, on a very clear Sunday afternoon. The point is: seeing isn't necessarily conclusive proof of the reality of anything. Therefore any argument that visual observation of "metallic" UFOs is amply proof (or for that matter even partial proof) of the existence of solid bodies of mass just doesn't hold up. Laser holograms are a good example of a means by which to project the image of a three dimensional object (although I'm not saying someone is projecting UFO images all over the skies).

Regarding my critique of the MUFON journal, Lou himself said it; the magazine is behind schedule, which is a bad sign. The August issue arrived around the end of November. Still, I suspect I was indeed too harsh in this area and for that I apologize not only to MUFON, but to Dennis Hauck, the journal's editor for the duration. In fact, shortly after I wrote last issue's ARB article, I received the August issue, which does appear to be somewhat better, content-wise. (Incidentally, I noted the return of Lou Farish's column therein.)

As for MUFON itself: I'd feel vastly more in favor of the efforts of this--or any--group if they didn't make such an obvious show of the fact that each of them would openly investigate every possible theory/facet of the UFO puzzle. I know that some MUFON members, for instance, are willing to sit and seriously discuss the parapsychical theory. I found this out early in 1976 when I visited with a group of MUFONers and Harvard scientists in Boston. However, since this isn't exactly "acceptable" policy within the organizational structure, the matter is generally not brought up. And when it is--such as in the case of Pitts' article--it often comes out in a negative light. (Of course, I must acknowledge the writings of such persons as Stan Gordon and Ann Druffel, who from time to time have had guts enough to suggest that all isn't as ETish in UFOdom as it may seem to be.)

On Pitts' comment that I seem to "need" spooks and creatures: I'd be almost content if these various "things" didn't ever show themselves. Yet they do, more and more frequently (as can be read in the pages of this journal). And since they do, they're as open to investigation as are UFOs. And in case Bill Pitts doesn't know it, Forteanism are persons who investigate all unexplained phenomena--not just Flying what-ers. I suggest that Pitts reexamine Dr. Charles Wiedemann's letter in the number three issue of ARB for a better understanding of how UFOs and weird creatures, etc., seem to inter-

relate.

One final comment to Pitts: the quotations I used in my reply were, word-for-word, accurate. I may have deleted certain words or phrases from the context of the quoted passage, but then that is the right of the critic or reviewer so long as he doesn't alter the meaning of the quoted statement. In this case the meaning wasn't altered. But then maybe Pitts' himself isn't clear on just what it was he said.

-----Curt Sutherly

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The "Church of Saucer worship" (CSW--not to be confused with GSA, Ground Saucer Watch) headed by one Steve Miller (1326 Walwood N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505) is responsible for this latest bid at publicity. Write the poor kid a letter, he is starving for recognition.

I WAS HELD CAPTIVE BY THE INFRATERRESTRIALS

by "John A. Sash"

Maybe I should have stayed in bed that stormy morning in July. Who's to say? But I wanted to go to the library and I needed a few books as references for a paper I was writing. For some odd reason I decided to take the Old Road to the library; a decision that would haunt me for the rest of my life.

As I drove down the road I couldn't help but notice how gloomy it seemed with the rain pouring down. On one else at all appeared to be traveling the road, which was strange since it was around ten in the morning and there were usually at least a few cars around.

After a few minutes of this I began to get nervous. I had the strangest feeling that I was being followed by this light in the sky above me. I wasn't sure if it was just an allucination. The events that followed seemed to lead to the conclusion that it was not

Soon after my foot fell asleep, and the feeling spread throughout my entire body things went from bad to worse. I had trouble keeping the car under control. Then a feeling of extreme paranoia engulfed my mind. I swerved to the side of the road, retching as a wave of nausea crashed into me. The light got brighter and brighter as it slowly settled downwards. Brighter, BRIGHTER, and then

I woke up in bed. My own house. I was covered with sweat; had it all been only a dream? I looked at my watch, a Timex day-date with an electric battery. It was ten o'clock of the twenty-second. I had set out on the 20th. Forty-eight hours had been chopped out of my life.

I thought nothing more of the incident, because there was really nothing that I or anyone else could do. Consequently, I mentioned it to no one. About two weeks later bizarre occurrences began to take place, and after that I was forced to think about it again. For instance, my entire personality started to change. I began to have an almost morbid interest in the works of Keel, Adamski, and H.P. Lovecraft. Where once only the highest of literary works held my interest, I now found myself reading Edwards, Fort, and, God forbid, von Daniken.

I thought nothing of spending long hours in the library looking up strange philosophies and obscure theories. I couldn't get enough of the sinister writings of people like Jim Moseley and Brad Steiger. What had come into me, I didn't know. Perhaps I felt that the answers to certain questions that had been gnawing at the back of my mind could be found in them.

Then I began having nightmares. In them a recurrent theme kept coming through. I would remember images, thoughts of another race of people living on the earth. They were horrible, alien, a whole separate order of beings. I knew it was they who had captured and held me for forty-eight hours. The most awful part of the nightmare was my helplessness. I couldn't escape the disgusting operation they were going to do. Even worse, I had no idea what the operation would do to me. Just as they were making the initial incision I would always wake up screaming.

I became obsessed with the nightmare; I wondered about what had actually happened to me in that mysterious room. So, it was in the spirit of an experiment that I began traveling the Old Road again. I hoped to come in contact with the strange people again.

One night, as I drove up and down the road, I became disgusted with myself. Was I crazy or something? I parked my car next to the dump. I had decided to abandon the foolish experiment, but I was reluctant to officially give up. I would wait the remainder of the night. If nothing happened I resolved to give up forever. I even decided to throw away all my abnormal books and go back to the beloved classics.

It was exactly at that point that I saw the light. It flashed on above me instantaneously, and I imagined the ungodly speed needed to do that.

Resolutely, I sat back and forced myself to be calm. The previous symptoms of paranoia and nausea were absent, so I figured that something different was going on. A measure of relaxation had come upon me; I waited for whatever would come next.

Minutes later I thought that I heard something. My ears strained to make out exactly what it was, but the sound escaped me. Frankly, I was scared. Whatever it was that had captured me now was coming back to finish the job.

But there was no more time to escape. For now I could hear the words of their dreaded song!!

"Ti-Ho! Hi-ho!

It's off to work we go!"

The dwarf people, and once again my soul was in their grasp. Now I remembered the whole thing. You see, after they captured me they conditioned me so that I would never recall what had happened. The conditioning had failed.

I could remember the awful tasks they had me perform against my fellow humans. When they found that the conditioning had failed they had to call me back before I spilled the beans on their whole multi-million dollar business.

I lept out of the car screaming, as hordes of crazed dwarves charged at me. Somehow I escaped on foot. I don't know exactly what happened. I was told by the two men that found me that they had heard a hideous screaming. Like a bunch of crows, they said. When they ran to investigate

they saw me walking around bloody and dazed. They said that I was crying and shaking.

After that I spent three years in a mental hospital. The good doctors said that I was something called a paranoid schizophrenic and no one would believe my story.

But you and anyone else not afraid to face the fact that we share this planet with something else not quite human can read the rest of my story in my new book, Secrets of the Killer Dwarves.

I can reveal, without infringing on the copyright laws, that the main weapon of the dwarves is myth. These dwarves have a racket where they collect fifty percent of the take on any book published anywhere that is concerned with myth, strange happenings, and any sighting in the sky. They use hypnotized zombie people to collect, and even use the zombie people for terrorizing innocent witnesses of "strange happenings." These witnesses will instantly report that some nut dressed in black is trying to scare them. The story gets around, and someone else makes it into another book.

My only regret is that there is absolutely nothing we can do. You all might as well give up: we're being beat at our own game.

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NEWS

MYSTERY ANIMALS

"Phantom panthers" are becoming an increasingly well known Fortean phenomenon. The mysterious cats, usually black in color, have been reported for years. Like UFOs and Big Hairy Monsters (BHM's) the panthers disappear into the dark of the night before local authorities and frightened residents can catch up with them. Many reports seemingly indicate a parapsychical animal. The phantom cats have been directly linked with UFOs and BHM's. Interestingly, these three inhabitants of the paranormal realm have had an electromagnetic effect on automobiles; causing them to "conk-out." A study conducted by the editor reveals some interesting correlations between various types of creature activity in the state of Michigan (full details next issue). To whet the reader's appetite we present two recent phantom panther reports . . .

DOG KILLER STRIKES AGAIN; BIG CAT SUSPECTED.

The black animal thought to have killed at least 50 dogs in the northwest foothills struck again Tuesday night, but officials say they are gaining clues to the animal's identity.

The latest victim, a white toy poodle owned by John Finnegan of 7318 Mountain Shadows Rd., was found by its owners Wednesday morning in a street near their house.

"He was unrecognizable," said Mrs. Finnegan. "You couldn't tell that what was left of him was a dog."

The finding was reported to the University of Arizona Veterinary Sciences Dept., which performed an autopsy and concluded that the attacker was definitely not a coyote and was probably a large cat.

"That dog was killed by some kind of short-jawed animal,

which doesn't positively rule out the possibility of certain types of dogs," said Bob Hernbrode, Arizona Game and Fish Dept. game specialist. "But I'm personally convinced that it is a cat."

The autopsy findings showed that the poodle's entrails had been eaten, as well as most of the back muscle tissue, but the head was undisturbed. The same pattern was seen on most of the other dogs, according to Game and Fish Dept. spokesmen. The teeth marks found on the poodle were too widely spaced to belong to any animal other than a cat, they said.

Several northwest Tucson residents have reported spotting a large black cat with faint spots, a description easily fitting a jaguar or leopard. One resident said she saw the animal in her yard last month.

Now the neighborhood fears for the safety of their small children, and the Game and Fish Dept. has fears of privately organized hunting parties.

"Vigilante groups would be the worst danger," said Hernbrode. "Whatever it is, it's been killing dogs for some time without attacking humans. But if humans go hunting for it, I'm afraid they might start shooting each other." (SOURCE: The Arizona Daily Star: October 15, 1976. ((Reports took place in Tucson, Arizona.)) CREDIT: Lou Farish & Tom Adams.)

Local officials later blamed the dog kills on "large dogs" and other mundane causes in direct contradiction with the facts. This is typical with creature scares because gun-carrying would-be monster hunters invade the creature infected area. Officials then must offer official "explanations" to keep the morons from shooting each other. For further info on phantom cats see "On the Trail of Pumas, Panthers and UIAs (Unidentified Leaping Animals)" by Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman (two parts, Fate magazine, June and July 1972). Also see "Mystery Animals" in the April 1974 issue of Pursuit.

A report from Walton Heights, Arkansas

LARGE CAT IS REPORTED IN WEST END.

A lexa family visiting relatives at 11233 Bainbridge Drive in Walton Heights Tuesday morning spotted what they thought was a panther moving through heavy underbrush in the woods behind the house.

Policemen searching the area found only a single paw print of a large animal. The print was not identified Tuesday.

The animal was seen about 10:30 a.m. by Odell Davis Jr., 37, a farmer; his brother, Charlie Davis Sr., 34, and his grand mother, Mrs. Jeannie Smith, 78. They described it as a "large, shiny black feline."

Walton Heights is in the northwest part of the city (Little Rock, Ark.--D.F.) overlooking the Arkansas River.

Panther is the mane most often applied to the black leopard found in Asia. It is also used to describe pumas, which are found in the United States, but which are usually lighter in color. It would be unusual to find one slose to a city. (SOURCE: Arkansas Gazette, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1976. CREDIT: Lou Farish.)

MUTILATIONS

COWS IN MUTILATION DEATHS.

The mutilation deaths of two quality breeding cows in western Pawnee County were reported today. The Pawnee County Sheriff's office was investigating.

The animals belonged to Adam Hummel and Charley Reece. In each case, only one cow in the herd was killed. How the animals were killed remain a mystery because the mutilations did not seem sufficient in themselves to cause death. Lack of blood on the ground indicated death was not by bleeding.

No tracks were found in the pastures and gates did not appear to have been tampered with. Adding to the mystery were reports from the farmers that they heard a helicopter flying low in the pasture area after dark Sunday night.

Hummel said he checked his herd Monday morning and found the dead animal, a cow that had given birth to a calf about a month ago. The herd of nearly 20 cattle had been checked Sunday and all were in good condition.

The cutting job was described as professionally clean. The rectum of the cow was cleanly severed in about an 18-inch circle, but the cow's udders were not tampered (with). The bush of the tail was also taken. The cow's face was cut on the right side with the eyeball, tongue and lips taken.

The pasture is located four miles south and five miles west of Burdett.

When word spread of the loss of Hummel's cow, Clyde Reece checked his heard (sic) and discovered a mutilated cow on the land about three miles sout of Hummel's. Presumably the cow was killed Sunday night. The Reeces were gone over the weekend and he didn't find the dead animal until Tuesday.

On this animal, the cow's teats were cut off as well as the rectum, one eye and the tongue.

There was no visable sign on how the animal was killed. It may have died from a tranquilizer. There was no sign of a death wound and no tracks in the pasture.

Clyde Reece pastures animals owned by his father Charley. It was one of the best cows in the pasture, a whitefaced Hereford.

About a year ago Norbert Burkhardt, who farms one quarter mile north of Hummel, had a cow similarly mutilated.

(SOURCE: The Tiller and Toiler, Larned Kansas, Sept. 29, 1976. CREDIT: Tom Adams.)

SLAUGHTER OF SHEEP LEAVES OFFICIAL PUZZLED.

POTTSTOWN, Pa. (AP)--The slaughter of 24 head of sheep on a farm seven miles from this city of 27,000 has left police and farm officials puzzled.

Roland Hobson, who has herded his flock for 18 years, said he's "never seen such a bloody mess," after discovering the bodies of the 299-pound sheep strewn from some five miles about the adjacent area Thursday morning.

Hobson, who placed the loss of half his flock at \$1,400, said he heard no strange sounds Wednesday evening, but with the dawn, he stated, he discovered indistinguishable mud tracks.

Hobson contacted the Department of Agriculture branch office in Lansdale which dispatched the superintendent of the dog law department, Charles Ritter, to the scene.

According to Hobson, Ritter couldn't speculate what

classification.

Carroll, one of the leading swine breeders in Texas, gave the feather Friday to Larry Lamely, Palestine wildlife biologist, who said he will sent (sic) it to Steve Wylie, curator or the birds at the large St. Louis Zoo.

Lamely said the zoo had a large number of large birds of various species. In additon, he said, Wylies has access to mounted specimens of other kinds. He may be able to solve the riddle of what kind of bird alighted in the middle of the pond back of the Carroll redidence in the hills east of Montalba.

After poring with Lamely and Mrs. Carroll over color pictures in several publications Friday during a visit at the Carroll place, Carroll was unable to find anything that matches the bird he saw at close range on his pond and which flew to the distant tree, where it perched when he fired a shot at it across the deep valley of a small stream northwest of the Carroll farrowing house.

"That bird stood about eight feet tall--tall as the ceiling of our living room--and had a wingspread of 10 to 12 feet," Carroll told the biologist.

Carroll said he is familiar with whooping cranes, sand-hill cranes and all other large Texas birds. He once lived near the Aransas (sic) National Wildlife Refuge, "home of the whooping cranes," which is located in Refugio County, and became familiar with whoopers, an endangered species.

The big bird he saw at close range, Carroll said, was bluish steel-gray except for the breast, which had a golden tinge.

Its neck was three feet long. The 12-inch-long beak was a brownish-gray with channels running down the bill from large eyes that bugged out above the beak.

Carroll was walking across the backyard toward the pond which borders the yard. The pond is about 50 feet across. It was around 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

When he first saw the bird, it was midway of the pond's 50-foot width, trying to lift itself from the water on huge wings that made a swishing sound, fanning the air.

Man and bird were less than 100 feet apart. "It was having a hard time getting airborne," he says. "I was thinking of my 100 pigs and how a bird that big could swallow a pig."

Flopping its monstrous wings, the bird managed to rise. It soared north and above the farrowing house, which is several hundred feet from the pond, then flew in a circular pattern, before rising above the ravine to the northwest. From the backyard, the bird was flying in a direction to the east of the tall Anderson County Sheriff's Department radio tower in the distance.

"I was thinking that I didn't want a thing that big hanging around my place that I hade no idea what it was or what it might do to my pigs."

Carrol took his .308 deer rifle with four-power 'scope from his pickup and hurried to the farrowing house in the direction the bird was flying.

At the cornor of the farrowing house, he saw the big bird alight in a hardwood tree--a gum or oak--on a limb 25 feet above ground on the hill beyond the ravine to the northwest.

"When it settled on that limb, the whole tree shook and vibrated violently. That bird must weigh 100 pounds."

Carroll looked through the scope and saw the bird rise up to its full height on the distant tree line.

From his vantage point at the farrowing house, the bird was a good 300 yards--probably close to 1,000 feet--away. The chance of hitting such a distant target even that large was remote. Carroll, sighting through the scope, hoped at best to stop the bird with a neck wound and be able to capture of find out what it was (sic).

He squeezed off a single shot. The bird dropped from the tree below the range of vision.

Carroll hurried out in hopes of reaching the bird. A neighbor who heard the shot, thinking Carroll had shot a deer, came to help him with it.

They found nothing under the tree or in the immediate vicinity. Searching the area with practiced eyes for signs, the feather which the bullet had broken was found 75 feet from the tree in which the bird had perched. It had a splotch of wet blood part-way up one side of the feather.

(That concludes the most interesting part of the story. SOURCE: Palestine Herald-Press; Palestine, TX. December 19, 1976. CREDIT: Tom Adams.)

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B O O K S

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next issue of ARB will contain quite a few book reviews, along with some additional data that we can't squeeze in this issue.

FIRST CONTACT: ARTHUR C. CLARKE AND EARTH'S INITIAL MEETING WITH EXTRATERRESTRIALS.

by Pat Bontempo

A trilogy of sorts was completed by science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke when he published Rendezvous with Rama. The theme of the book, the first contact between Earth and an alien intelligence, was handled before by Clarke in Childhood's End and 2001: A Space Odyssey.

But in Rama Clarke made a dramatic break with the views expressed in the two earlier works. In the past his extraterrestrials were benevolent overseers of Earth's development--even the force which launched humans on the path of mental evolution. In Rama, however, the alien civilization is totally divorced from man. It is even indifferent to Earth's attempt to probe its secrets while its vehicle rockets through space.

This should come to a blow to those in ufology who accept the ET theory and particularly those believers in ancient astronauts. Clarke's books, and especially the movie 2001, provided strong reenforcement both inside and outside Ufology for their views

In Childhood's End, copyright 1953, Clarke presented the classic tale of "what if . . ." the flying saucers landed. In his story the UFOs are the craft of watchers (Overlords) assigned by a mysterious Over-Mind power to check on Earth's development and help it when it reaches the stage for a new step in the evolutionary process--a step from racial childhood to maturity.

The transformation is linked to man's psychic powers and the birth of a generation of super-psychic children. The book ends as Earth goes through upheavals reminiscent of Revelations, after a "Golden Age" much like the millenium.

In fact, religious symbolism dominates the book. The Overlords appear as devils. Like the angels who watch over men in Christian mythology, these Overlords are incapable of reaching the heights men will attain but instead serve as guardians and guides to races such as humans. Indeed it is implied something in the Overlords' past or some flaw in their racial character prevents their further development. Like the devils then, they are fallen angels.

The descent of cosmic consciousness to Earth in UFO form is like the descent of God in the form of Christ. The end of Earth's childhood is like a Christian "rebirth."

In first the movie 2001 and later the book (1968) the above message is repeated with slight modifications. A major addition is the Ancient Astronaut (AA) idea. The story opens with a slab meant to signify the ET power which seeds the universe with reason and, on Earth, transforms caveman into thinking-man.

Instead of the alien intelligence descending to meet man, in 2001 man journeys to meet God in a trip which would have been approved of by the early Christian heretics, the Gnostics. The slab, rediscovered on the moon and then re-encountered on Jupiter prompts the "rebirth" this time. The lone traveller is transformed into a "space child," a symbol of the new race coming.

This is all an echo of the Childhood themes changed to reflect a time when Earth has made partial success in space travel. In the movie a psychedelic display with its allusion to the mind-expanding drugs of 60s fame precludes any need to speak of psychic powers.

However in Rama (copyright 1973) everything changes. Rama is a spaceship as big as a small planet which comes rocketing through the solar system. Will it crash into the sun; go into orbit around it; rendezvous with Earth?

It does none of these. This amazing creation of extraterrestrial intelligence is an indifferent traveller which only wants to use our sun to recharge its power source before continuing its journey. Earth explorers enter Rama finding a vast warehouse and possibly industrial plant, all maintained by biological robots, but minus the Ramans. Rama neither encourages nor discourages their search although its complexity, vastness, and alien nature prevents all but the most superficial of examinations.

These aliens obviously had no connection with Earth and wanted none.

Most interesting is Clarke's introduction of "Cosmic Christers"--his vision of today's Ancient Astronaut believers and contactees organized into a church. At one point a CCer member of the exploration team announces he had solved the riddle of Rama: it is a space ark some to save those worthy of salvation. This same character later defuses a missile designed to destroy Rama.

Is Clarke deliberately--albeit kindly--refuting the ideas of ET and AA believers by first stating their case plainly via the character and then proving it (within the

confines of the tale) wrong? It would appear so.

Clarke also dropped the religious symbolism. True, the craft is named after a Hindu god (he says they ran out of the Greek and Roman ones) and one character describes being in Rama to being at the foot of an Aztec temple or in an Egyptian tomb, but this is a far cry from the religious framework which cupported his earlier works.

I don't know why the change on Clarke's part or even how intentional it was. Most likely he was partially developing an interesting idea for a story regardless of its implications and partially reacting (intentionally or not) to the nonsense propagated by AA and ET groups. In any case, those of us who oppose the AA-ET domination of UFO thought cannot help but be pleased to have a view of Earth's first contact with extraterrestrial intelligence where the aliens are not falling all over each other in a mad scramble to get their hands on our Hershey bars and to teach us "truths" that have been known since the year 1.

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READERS: Your articles and reports are needed.

LATE NEWS. The December 27, 1976 issue of Time magazine carried the following item: "Died. Donald H. Menzel, 75, one of the world's leading authorities on the sun; in Boston. Menzel observed his first solar eclipse as a boy in Colorado, and spent the rest of his life studying the sun and its corona. A member of the Harvard faculty for nearly 40 years, Menzel watched 15 total eclipses, leading expeditions to Siberia, the Sahara and other remote outposts to get the best views. In 1938 he developed the U.S.'s first coronagraph, a telescope device that allows scientists to study the sun's glowing halo without the help of an eclipse. Menzel was a prolific author of scientific books and science fiction, and an accomplished doodler, whose sketches have been exhibited widely."

Donald Menzel was a UFO skeptic and wrote several books on the subject. His last book will be published Feb. 4th. It is on UFOs

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